

AGE OF APOCALYPSE

MARVEL 002

NICIEZA
SANDOVAL
CURIEL



**SECRET
WARS**

AGE OF APOCALYPSE

MARVEL

002 VARIANT
EDITION



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**SECRET
WARS**

AGE OF APOCALYPSE

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED...
NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS BATTLEWORLD!

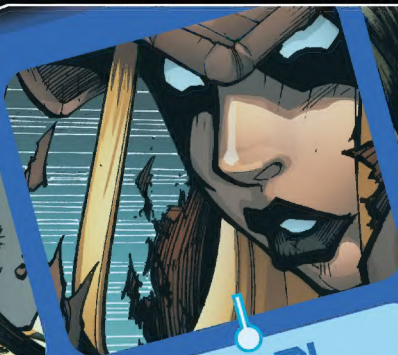
A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF FRAGMENTS FROM WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM. EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF, BUT NONE IS RULED MORE RUTHLESSLY THAN THE REALM OF EN SABAH NUR, APOCALYPSE.



ROGUE

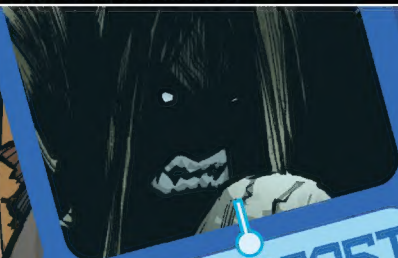
CAPACITIES: Uncontrolled ability to absorb the powers or memories of any living being on contact; flight, enhanced strength.

PROFILE: Long-standing member of the X-Men, Rogue remains deeply embittered over the death of Remy LeBeau, the man she loved. Should the opportunity present itself, she is a prime candidate to turn against Magneto.



CAROL DANVERS

PROFILE: The Rules Enforcement Officer of the Human Community, Danvers is also suspected of being the leader of the growing underground terrorist group known as The Friends of Humanity.



DARK BEAST HANK MCCOY

CAPACITIES: Enhanced strength and agility; chemically self-augmented appearance; alleged great intellect.

PROFILE: The pernicious Mengele Puppet who dances on Lord Essex's strings, McCoy is an expert at biogenetic archiving and Reclamations responsible for cataloging and experimenting on hundreds of thousands of DNA samples.



MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION

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THE HUMAN COMMUNAL VILLAGE.

A.K.A. THE FLATSCAN GHETTO.

YOU GROW UP HEARING STORIES ABOUT ALL OF THEM.

THE **ELITE MUTANT FORCE** ARE THE POLICE, JUDGE AND EXECUTIONERS ROLLED INTO ONE.

THEY ANSWER ONLY TO THE **FOUR HORSEMEN**, DISTRICT RULERS FOR **BARON APOCALYPSE**.

OPPOSING THE E.M.F., AS THEY HAVE FOR YEARS, ARE THE **X-MEN**, WHO FIGHT FOR EQUALITY BETWEEN **MUTANTS** AND **HUMANS**.

MY WHOLE LIFE I WAS TAUGHT THAT APOCALYPSE WAS SECOND ONLY TO **LORD DOOM** HIMSELF.

MY WHOLE LIFE I THOUGHT APOCALYPSE WAS A SAVAGE MADMAN AND THE **X-MEN** WERE THE **REAL** HEROES.

WATCHING THESE TWO SIDES GO AT EACH OTHER, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER...

...AM I GETTING A FRONT-ROW SEAT TO WATCH THE END OF A DREAM...



...OR THE END
OF THE WORLD?

MY NAME IS DOUG RAMSEY.
I HAVE THE ABILITY TO
INTERPRET ALL WRITTEN AND
SPOKEN LANGUAGE.

AS IF SNARLS, GRUNTS
AND HATRED ARE
HARD TO DECIPHER.

BEDLAM
BROTHERS!

CLEAR
ALEX FROM THE
BATTLEFIELD!

HE'S STILL
ALIVE!

SCOTT--
BEHIND
YOU!

PRELATE SUMMERS TURNS
JUST IN TIME TO AVOID
GETTING SKEWERED BY
BLINK'S BLADES.

SWISH

AND SHE TELEPORTS
OUT BEFORE HE CAN
TAKE HER DOWN WITH
HIS OPTIC BLASTS.

A large, dark, jagged figure of Cyclops looms in the background. In the upper right, a glowing blue circular telepathic link contains a hand reaching out. In the lower half, a large, screaming face of a mutant is shown, with red lightning bolts emanating from it. Various other mutants are shown in smaller scenes: two talking, one in pain, one being held, and one being felt.

EMMA
FROST...TAKE DOWN
CYCLOPS.

I HAVE
A TELEPATHIC
LOCK ON HIM
NOW, ERIK.

→NNGGH←

I am
sorry about
your parents,
Scott.

We're
going to be okay,
Alex!

It
hurts!

I can't
control my
powers! Essex,
please--

Hi,
my name is
Jean.

HELP
ME!

I CAN UNDERSTAND
THE TRUTH BEHIND
HIS WORDS.

I CAN FEEL HIS
LOSS AND LONELINESS,
FEARS AND LONGINGS...



...NO ONE KNOWS
HOW BADLY SCOTT
SUMMERS *DOESN'T*
WANT THIS FIGHT...

CYCLOPS
IS DOWN!

NYEARGH!

TERRY!

YOU'RE
NEXT, BUB!

LOGAN IS LIKE
HIS NAMESAKE, THE
WOLVERINE...

...A FORCE
OF NATURE.

RELENTLESS.
UNFORGIVING.



IT'S BEEN **FIVE YEARS**
SINCE **LORD DOOM** STOPPED
APOCALYPSE FROM WARRING ON
THE NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS.

THAT LED TO AN EVEN
HARSHER **CLAMPDOWN**
IN HIS OWN DOMAIN.

THREE YEARS
SINCE HUMAN
RIGHTS WERE
COMPLETELY
ABOLISHED.

TWO YEARS
SINCE I RAN
AWAY TO THE
SANCTUARY.

ONE YEAR SINCE
THE X-MEN SUFFERED A
CRUSHING DEFEAT AND
THE LOSS OF **GRAYMALKIN**,
THEIR REFUGE.

THE X-MEN ARE
DESPERATE TO STOP
APOCALYPSE. THEY SET
A TRAP FOR THE E.M.F.

HOPING TO **DEFEAT** OR
RECRUIT THEM. LONG
SHOT EITHER WAY.



BURN.

BURNER
DOESN'T SAY
MUCH...

...NONE OF
THEM DO.

GGYEEAAAA

BUT THE FEW
WORDS THEY DO
SAY ARE LACED
WITH BITTERNESS
AND ANGER.

MAGNETO.
WOLVERINE.
FROST. ROGUE.
BLINK. BURNER.



ONCE, THOSE
NAMES WERE OUR
HOPE FOR A BETTER
WORLD.

BUT NOW...

...WHAT
HAVE THEY
BECOME...?

NIGHTCRAWLER
IS PREPPED FOR THE
NUTRIENT TANK.

IT DEFIES
LOGIC THAT
WE CONTINUE TO
RESIST BECOMING...
MORE.

NEW CAIRO.

THE GENE LAB OF DR. HANK MCCOY.

ESSEX
PREFERS *NATURAL*
EVOLUTION, DR.
BRADLEY.

MUTANTS
PROCREATING IS
A *RECYCLING* OF OUR
GENETIC SUPERIORITY, NOT
AN *ADVANCEMENT*
OF IT.

I RESPECT
YOUR BELIEFS,
DR. MCCOY, FUELED
AS THEY ARE BY
THE TEACHINGS
OF *ESSEX*.

BUT WE
WASTE TIME
FIGHTING THE X-MEN
OR TIPTOEING AROUND
THE TOTAL GENOCIDE
OF THE HOMO
SAPIENS...



...WHEN ALL WE
NEED TO ADVANCE THE
MUTANT RACE IS CONTAINED
WITHIN OUR *OWN* GENETICS,
WAITING FOR NOTHING
MORE THAN A
GENTLE...



"...PUSH."

YOU'RE
A TRAITOR,
ROGUE!

MEANS SO
MUCH COMIN' FROM A
GOOSESTEPPER LIKE
YOU, CANNONBALL!



PLEASE--
STOP!

BUT WOLVERINE
DOESN'T. HOW
CAN YOU CLAIM TO
HELP HUMANS...



...WHEN YOU'VE
SACRIFICED YOUR OWN
HUMANITY...?

CYCLOPS IS
HURTI! WE HAVE
TO HELP!

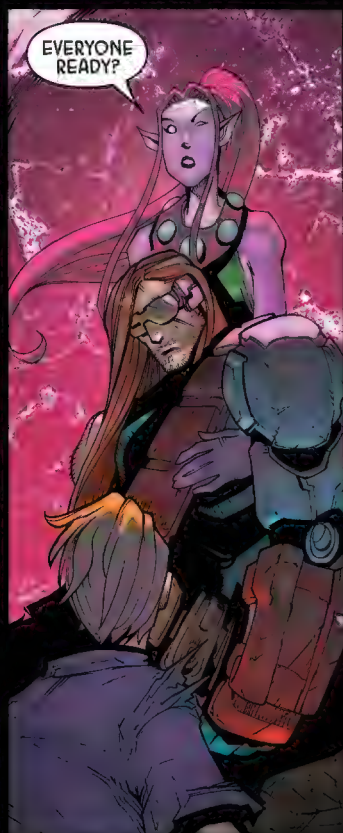
ARE YOU
NUTS?

THE TRUTH BEHIND
THE WORDS OF DR.
PETER CORBEAU
AND SHERIFF CAROL
DANVERS:

"WE HAVE TO
PRETEND TO BE
NEUTRAL IN
ALL THIS."

"LET
HIM DIE!"





EVERYONE
READY?



KEEP YOUR
HANDS AND FEET
INSIDE THE MOVING
VEHICLE.



YOU SET THIS UP, DIDN'T YOU, CAROL?
WORKED WITH MAGNETO AND LED
THE E.M.F. INTO A TRAP!

I HAD
NO CHOICE,
PETER!

HOW MUCH
TIME DO WE HAVE
LEFT? A YEAR? A
MONTH? WE ARE
ON THE VERGE OF
EXTINCTION!



I'M TIRED
OF WAITING FOR
YOU TO GET OVER
YOUR MORALS!

APOCALYPSE
WILL COME TO BURY US
FOR THIS, AND WHEN
HE DOES...

"...EVERY SINGLE
MUTANT--EVEN
THE ONES WHO
HAVE HELPED US--
IS GOING TO
DIE!"

GOOD
EVENING,
JEANNIE.

WARREN,
THERE'S SOMEONE
HERE TO SEE
YOU...

AND FROM
YOUR TERRIFIED
LOOK, I BET IT'S
SOMEONE VERY
IMPORTANT.

YOU'D
WIN THAT BET,
ANGEL.

HEAVEN.

THE PRIVATE CLUB OF
WARREN WORTHINGTON
III.



THEN AGAIN,
YOU USUALLY DO,
DON'TCHA?

ALL THESE
YEARS AND YOU
NEVER HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO PICK
A SIDE...

GRRRRR

WELL,
VICTOR, SOME
MIGHT CONSIDER
IT MORE HONORABLE
THAN SWITCHING
SIDES...



I'D SAY
MY CHOICE TO
LEAVE MAGNETO
WAS THE RIGHT
ONE.



THE ELITE
MUTANT FORCE
WAS AMBUSHED
TODAY!

YOU PRETEND
TO BE NEUTRAL IN
THE WAR BETWEEN
MUTANTS AN' HUMANS,
BUT YOU PROFIT
FROM BOTH
SIDES!

TELL
ME WHAT YOU
KNOW AND I'LL LET
YOU STAY IN
BUSINESS...



...AND STAY
ALIVE!

WESTCHESTER.

THIS WAS THE SITE
OF THE X-MEN'S
GREATEST BATTLE...

...AND THEIR
WORST DEFEAT.

DESTINY TOLD ME
SHE KNEW WHERE THEY HID.
IN A HOUSE OWNED BY A
MAN WHO DIED **TWENTY**
YEARS AGO.

SHE CALLED **CHARLES XAVIER** "A MAN
WHO WOULD HAVE MATTERED NOW,
IF HE HAD MATTERED MORE THEN."

SHE TALKED IN **RIDDLES**
A LOT. SHE WOULD HAVE
LIKED THIS ONE:

IF THE X-MEN FIGHT FOR
FREEDOM, WHY DO THEY
LIVE LIKE **PRISONERS**?

CLANGG

FITS
LIKE A
GLOVE...

I NEVER
CLAIMED I WAS
INNOCENT,
BURNER.

BUT
DO YOU TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR YOUR
SINS?



ONLY
EVERY SINGLE
DAY.

HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN
THE *STUMP* YOU
LEFT ME WITH,
SUMMERS.

OR WHAT
YOU DID TO THE
REDHEAD.

JUST SO
YOU KNOW,
LOGAN, I STILL
REGRET JUST *ONE*
OF THOSE
ACTIONS...



THEY LIVE
UNDERGROUND IN
SOME KIND OF
LATTICEWORK OF...
TUNNELS...

...HIDING FROM THE PEOPLE
LOOKING FOR THEM OR
HIDING FROM THEIR
FAILURE.

YOU BETTER
BE WORTH EVERYTHIN'
WE SACRIFICED GETTIN'
YOU, KID...



I SAW THE
X-MEN AS A FORCE
OF NATURE.

BUT ONCE
THE STORM
PASSED?

ALL THUNDER AND
LIGHTNING AND
CRASHING WAVES.

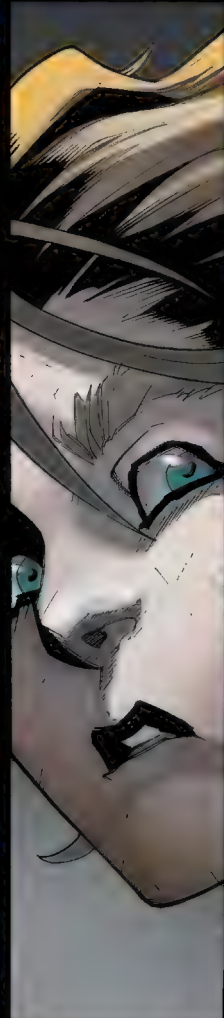
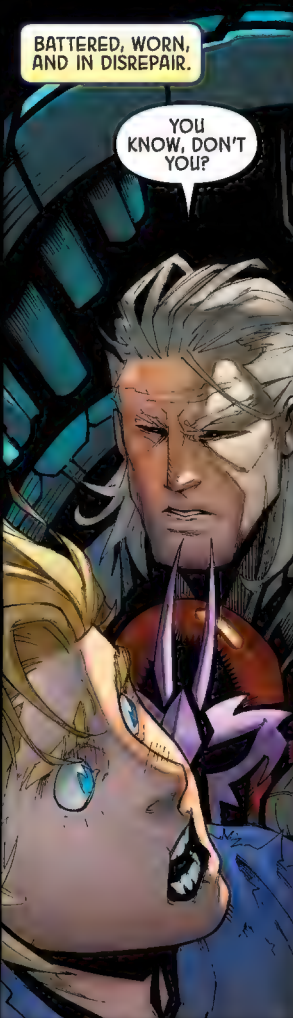
THEY LEAVE
THEMSELVES
IN ITS WAKE.

THIS IS HOW
THEY LIVE? IN
SQUALID BUNKERS?

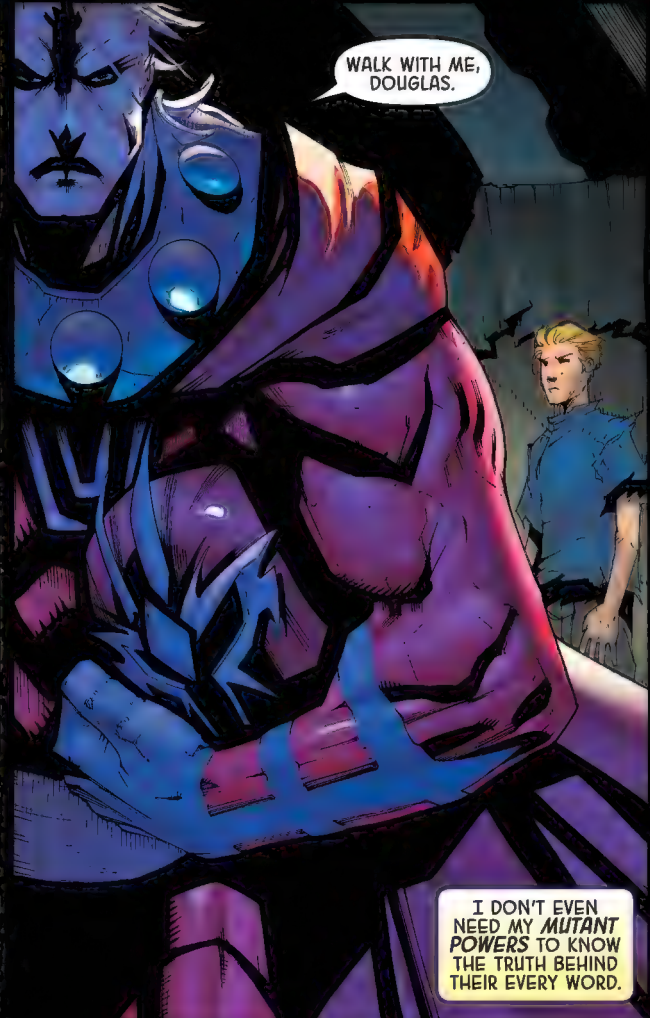


BATTERED, WORN,
AND IN DISREPAIR.

YOU
KNOW, DON'T
YOU?



WALK WITH ME,
DOUGLAS.



I DON'T EVEN
NEED MY *MUTANT*
POWERS TO KNOW
THE TRUTH BEHIND
THEIR EVERY WORD.



THE X-MEN
HAVE LOST.

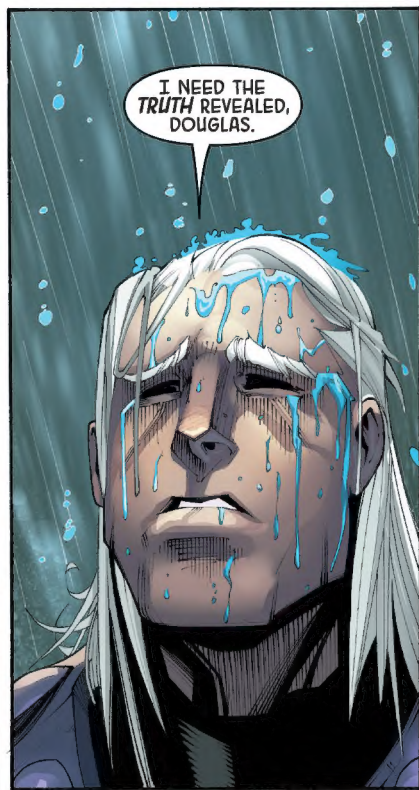
NOT A BATTLE,
BUT THE **WAR**. NOT
THE DREAM, BUT
THEIR **HOPE**.

APOCALYPSE
IS **INSANE**. I KNOW
THAT SHOULD APPEAR
OBVIOUS--



--BUT
BEYOND HIS USUAL
**BUTCHERY AND
MADNESS--**

--I
FEAR HE HAS A
**FINAL INSANITY
PLANNED.**



I NEED THE
TRUTH REVEALED,
DOUGLAS.



I NEED
YOU TO CONVINCE
THE **HORSEMEN** THEIR
MASTER MUST BE
STOPPED!

WHAT IF
THEY WON'T
BELIEVE THE
TRUTH?

THEN ALL
OF US--**HUMANS
AND MUTANTS**
ALIKE...



...ARE
GOING TO
DIE.



AH,
EXCUSE
ME.



THE THRONE CHAMBER OF APOCALYPSE.

THE
AMOUNT OF
TIMES I'VE RECOMMENDED
A BETTER INTERIOR
DECORATOR...

lord
essex...



...as always,
you tread so
lightly...

...around
your intent...

LORD
ABYSS.
WHERE IS
CREED?

he was
tasked with
uncovering details
of the FlatScans'
duplicity.

CREED AS
DETECTIVE.

I IMAGINE
PLAYING YOUR WAY TO THE TRUTH IS ONE
OPTION...



THE FLATSCAN GHETTO.

PLISH
PLISH
PLISH
PLISH



"...I ALMOST FEEL SORRY
FOR WHAT THE HUMANS ARE
GOING TO ENDURE..."

SHERIFF
DANVERS...

...WE
NEED TO
TALK...

"YOU ARE MY
HORSEMEN..."

...MY CHOSEN
AVATARS OF
ASCENDANCY...

...BUT
YOU HAVE NEVER
QUITE GRASPED THE
ESSENCE OF MY
CALLING.

IT IS NOT
ENOUGH TO JUST
LIVE--NOR EVEN TO
SURVIVE--NEITHER MATTER
WITHOUT HAVING ENDURED
TREMENDOUS
HARDSHIP.

WE TRIUMPHED
OVER THE WRETCHED
HOMO SAPIENS RACE SO
LONG AGO THAT WE HAVE
FORGOTTEN WHAT
SURVIVAL OF THE
FITTEST REALLY
MEANS!

IF THE
FLATSCANS
HAVE A WEAPON
OR A PLAGUE,
I SAY--

--KILL
US IF YOU
CAN...

...OR DIE
TRYING!

NEXT:

MUTANTS IN JARS!
CYCLOPS GETS TORTURED!
THE ORIGINAL X-MEN
IN ACTION! AND A POX
UPON ALL HOUSES!